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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF TREDEGAR



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspectors
FOR THE YEAR
1950



TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman (1950) : Councillor J. B. McPherson, J.P.
Chairman (1950) Public Health Committee : Councillor T. James.
Chairman (1950) Housing Committee : Councillor J. Bevan.
Clerk of the Council : John Lewis J. Price, Solicitor.

MEMBERS.

West Ward.

Councillor W. Bowen.
Councillor W. Rawle.
Councillor A. Tillings.
Councillor C. P. Walby.

Central Ward.

Councillor E. Davies.
Councillor G. Gould.
Councillor E. Jones, J.P.
Councillor G. Tuffin.

Georgetown Ward.

Councillor J. Bevan.
Councillor A. L. Coombes.
Councillor J. B. McPherson, J.P.
Councillor (Mrs.) I. Powell.

Sirhowy Ward.

Councillor W. M. Clarke.
Councillor R. I. Davies.
Councillor T. James.
Councillor E. Meyrick.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

*Margaret M. McDowall, M.B., B.Sc., D.T.M., D.P.H., M.R.C.O.G.

Senior Sanitary Inspector (Whole Time):

C. G. Watkins, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1920.
Certificated Inspector of Meat & Other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1927.

Second Sanitary Inspector (Whole Time) :

O. Griffiths, M.R.San.I.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, 1937.
Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene, 1938.
Certificated Inspector of Meat & Other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1939.
Certificate of Food Hygiene, The Royal Sanitary Institute, 1939.

Clerical Assistant : Mr. D. John Turner.

Assistant Rodent Officer : Mr. I. Gwyn Owen.

Public Cleansing Foreman : Mr. Crad. Brace.

**Dr. McDowall commenced duty on the first of March of the year, and resigned as from 14th October of the same year.*

During the remaining periods of the year, Dr. Edwin T. H. Davies, M.D., M.S.(Lond)., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), was re-appointed as temporary Medical Officer of Health.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Bedwellty House,

Tredegar, Mon.

27th October, 1951.

To the Chairman & Members of the Tredegar Urban District Council.

Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1950, which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 112/50 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District :—

Parish of Tredegar	4,360 acres
Parish of Dukestown	3,788 acres
	<hr/>
	8,148 acres

Rateable Value of the District ...	... ..	£71,813
Estimated Product of 1d. rate ...	... ..	£250
Amount Per Pound of rates levied for the district (Year Ended 31/3/51)	... ..	£1 4 0

The **population** of the district reached its peak in the years 1924-25, when the figure given was 26,380. The depression during the years that followed brought about a gradual exodus, especially of the younger people to more prosperous areas, resulting in a steady decline, leaving in 1939 an estimated population figure of 20,600. This drop continued somewhat during the war period, but an upward trend is again noted for the post-war years and the Registrar General's estimate for **1950** is **20,360**.

The natural and social conditions of the area fully described in earlier reports altered little during the year.

Geographically situated at the Northern entrance or gateway of the Head of the Sirhowy Valley and lying on either side of the river Howy almost at its source, the district has an altitude of between 800 feet above sea level as Bedwellty Pits Village on the Southern extremity to 1,350 feet at Trefil Quarriet in the North.

Physically, the upper portion of the district lies above the outcrop of the South Wales Coalfield upon the Farewell Rock or Millstone Grit and Limestone Rocks which still continue to give employment to a considerable number of workmen at the Quarries, feeding the limestone for use at the Ebbw Vale Steel-works. The lower portions of the district have on either side of the valley mountainous ridges, formed of Sandstone overlying the coal measures.

In shape, the map of the district resembles the form of a 'kite,' being over seven miles in its length through which the river Howy traverses, the mountain moorland in the northern limits stretching to a width of about three miles, tapering along the valley to a few furlongs in width at the southern extremity.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

				BIRTH RATE.		
				Males	Females	Total
Live Births.	(Legitimate)	...	...	204	175	379
	(Illegitimate)	...	...	5	4	9
				<hr/> 209	<hr/> 179	<hr/> 388

Producing a birth rate of **19.05** per 1,000 population compared with 19.21 for 1949; 19.67 for 1948; 21.35 for 1947; 22.28 for 1946 and 16.63 for 1939.

				Males	Females	Total
Still-Births.	(Legitimate)	...	...	9	8	17
	(Illegitimate)	...	...	—	1	1
				<hr/> 9	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 18

Which gives a rate of 0.88 per 1,000 population as against 0.29 for 1949 ; 0.45 for 1948 ; 0.50 for 1947 ; 1.15 for 1946 and 1.01 for 1939.

The still-birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) is as follows :—

1950	...	44.33
1949	...	15.26
1948	...	22.44
1947	...	23.09
1946	...	49.14
1939	...	57.69

DEATH RATE.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General, the number of deaths during 1950, was :—

Males	Females	Total
143	106	249

Resulting in a death rate per 1,000 population of 12.2. This is somewhat slightly lower than the rate of 12.24 for the previous year and well below the figure of 13.52 recorded for 1947.

Comparable figures for earlier years are :—

1946	—	11.77 ;	1945	—	10.74 ;	1944	—	11.54 ;
1930	—	10.37 ;	1914	—	17.90 ;	1901	—	19.33 ;

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

Under the heading of pregnancy, childbirth and abortion, one death was recorded.

The rate for 1950 per 1,000 (live and still) births.

England & Wales	0.86
Mon. Administrative County	1.73
Tredegar Urban District	2.46

For the earlier ten years the number of maternal deaths for the district were :—

1949 — 1	1945 — 1	1942 — Nil.
1948 — Nil.	1944 — 1	1941 — 3
1947 — 1	1943 — Nil.	1940 — 2
1946 — Nil.		

The rate for England and Wales per million women aged 15 to 44 years is :—

From abortion with sepsis	7
From other abortions	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year :—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	3	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Giving a rate per 1,000 live births of **30.92** again a very decided improvement to the previous year. This is a remarkably low figure and is the best ever yet to be achieved for this district. A few comparable figures are given below:—

1949 — 33.59 ;	1948 — 40.82 ;	1947 — 47.28 ;
1924 — 73.4 ;	1914 — 125.00 ;	1904 — 190.00 ;

The rate of legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births was 31.66 a ratio of two in sixty-three.

The rate of illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births was nil.

There was one (male) infant death attributable to enteritis and diarrhoea, a similar figure to the previous year.

Statistical tables, appertaining to your district are appended to the report.

A comparison of the vital statistics of the district with those for England and Wales and also the County for 1950 are set out in the accompanying tabulation.

	BIRTH RATE		DEATH RATE	
	Live births per 1,000 population	Still births per 1,000 population	All ages per 1,000 population	Under 1 yr. per 1,000 population
England & Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	29.8
Monmouthshire	17.4	.58	12.3	39.8
Tredegear U.D.	19.05	0.88	12.2	30.92

The most pleasing and outstanding features of the report are the highly satisfactory birth rate and also the low infantile mortality.

It will be seen that the death rate is slightly below that for the Administrative County, but is somewhat higher when compared with the figure given for the Country as a whole.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality from any cause, neither was the district visited by any widespread epidemic disease during the year.

Therefore taken as a whole, and having regard to all the circumstances of your area, you will no doubt agree, the vital statistics bear favourable comparison to those of the remainder of the County, and also the Country, and it can be stated that the "bill of health" of Tredegear for 1950 was generally good.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The development and progress of these services as established under the provisions of the National Health Services Act, 1946, and now in the main, the function and responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and also the County Council as the Local Health Authority, are matters still of vital concern and interest to you, and your officers are at all times ready to co-operate in all possible ways with these Statutory Bodies towards the success of the various schemes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The water area of the Council has been well supplied and every effort made to maintain a high standard of purity.

The total quantity of water filtered during the year was :—

At the Nantybwch Filtration Plant	353,968,500 gallons.
At the Georgetown Filtration Plant	121,829,000 gallons
	<hr/>
	475,797,500 gallons

Of this amount :—

122,985,100 gallons were supplied in bulk to the Bedwellty U.D.C.
902,515 gallons were supplied in bulk to the Rhymney U.D.C.

The Schemes of comprehensive works (as authorised by various Water Orders made) for the improvement of both the Nantybwhch and Georgetown Water Undertakings (as prepared by your Consulting Engineer, Mr. V. Cory Goddard, M.Inst.C.E.) and which have been in progress for several years past, reached further stages towards completion during the year.

The extension of the Nantybwhch Filter House and the provision of six additional filters, together with the construction of a service reservoir at Dukestown, whereby the whole of the Sirhowy, Scwrfa and Dukestown district (formerly supplied by the Ebbw Vale U.D.C.) was brought within the limits of supply from your Nantybwhch Waterworks, thus bringing the whole of the Urban Area within the supply limits of the Council's own Water Undertakings.

Approximate number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains.

	Dwelling Houses	Population
(a) Total in district	5,412	20,360
(b) Direct service to houses	5,363	20,110
(c) By means of stand pipes	29	114

SAMPLES. (Submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newport, during the year).

Bacteriological Examination.

	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Total
	Raw	Treated	Raw	Treated	
Tredegar U.D.					
Supply	1	37	42	6	86
Ebbw Vale Supply	—	1	—	—	1

RAINFALL, Etc.

Extracts from the recordings of Mr. O. Griffiths (Second Sanitary Inspector), taken at the Climatological Station, Bedwellty Park (992 feet above ordnance datum) give the following items of information :—

Total rainfall for the year 1950 60.09 inches.

The three wettest months of the year were :—

February with a rainfall of 11.02 inches
 August with a rainfall of 8.44 inches
 November with a rainfall of 7.54 inches

The three driest months of the year were :—

April with a rainfall of .55 inch
 June with a rainfall of .60 inch
 December with a rainfall of .68 inch

Number of dry days during the year 147.
 Number of days with a fall of snow 19.

Open-Air Swimming Bath.

Situated in ideal surroundings and within the precincts of Bedwellty Park, the open-air swimming pool continued during its seventeenth season to be a great attraction to the younger element for healthy exercise and recreation.

	1948	1949	1950
Number of bathers	25,147	53,961	25,615
Number of spectators	3,968	7,606	3,705

Drainage and Sewerage.

Practically the whole of the district is well provided with stoneware subsidiary sewers, which are linked up to the main sewers laid along the river bed. The Western Valley's (Mon.) Sewerage Board (of which the Council form a constituent Authority) have control of the trunk sewers.

The cleansing and repair of choked or defective drainage systems, both public and private, is pressed for immediately upon receipt of complaint or discovery.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Howy, with a number of small tributaries, traverses the length of the district. Every vigilance is exercised to prevent the dumping of refuse along its banks.

Closet Accommodation.

The water-carriage system is almost universal throughout the area. An estimate of the number of each type of closet is as follows :—

(a) Number of pail or privy closets (including several of the chemical type) to isolated farms, cottages, and other premises where there is no sewer available	...	...	49
(b) Number of closets with fixed receptacles	...	...	7
(c) Number of closets with moveable receptacles	...	...	5
(d) Number of waterclosets (with flushing apparatus)	...	...	3,564
(e) Number of waterclosets (hand flushed)	...	...	2,258

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This important branch of the Public Health Services was well and regularly maintained throughout the year, including the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse, street cleansing, care of public conveniences, etc.

The amount of salvage materials collected and disposed of during 1950 was considerably smaller than in former years and amounted to only 16 tons 13 cwt. making a total of 1,042 tons 19 cwt. 3 qrs. since the inauguration of the Council's Scheme in July, 1940.

ROADS.

Of the total of approximately 41 miles of roads in the district, 13·204 miles are classified as under :—

(a) **Trunk Road.** A 465.

Merthyr—Abergavenny Road. From Waenpound to the boundary of Rhymney U.D. at Princetown 2.50 mls.

(b) **Class I Road.** A 4048.

From Sirhowy Bridge to Pochin. (Northern boundary of Bedwellty U.D.) 4.01 mls.

(c) **Class II Road.** B 4256.

From Queen Victoria Street to the Rhymney U.D. Boundary at Heath Cock 1.39 mls.

(d) **Class III Roads.**

(1) From A 465 near Crown Inn, Nantybwch to Quarrymen's Arms, Trefil 1.85 mls.

(2) From A 465 near Railway Hotel to Station Road near Crown Inn, Nantybwch 1.21 mls.

(3) From A 4048 at Morgan Street via Shop Row to Ebbw Vale U.D. boundary, near Mountain Air Gate 1.112 mls.

(4) From B 4256 near Cefn Golau Cemetery to U.D. Boundary south of Mountain Ash Inn 1.132 mls.

The number of street gullies in the district is estimated at about 1,700.

Verminous Infestation.

A large number of complaints of verminous premises and articles were dealt with during the year, D.D.T., Gammexane and Fumite preparations were mainly used for treatment, in either powder or liquid form, with very good results.

In several instances of heavy infestation, a blow lamp was used to augment the chemical treatment.

Rodent Control.

All-out efforts were made throughout the year to systematically tackle the work of rodent control, and in this connection the ever ready co-operation and assistance of the Officers of the South Wales Infestation Control Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has to be appreciably acknowledged.

Two further maintenance treatments of your sewer systems were undertaken during the year, with satisfactory results.

The coming into force of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, on the thirty-first of March, 1950, brought about many important and permanent

changes in procedure and administration by Local Authorities. The following data taken from the report for the period of the year ending 31st December, 1950, may be of interest.

Number of properties in the area	...	...	...	...	5,941
Infestations reported by occupiers	...	...	...	...	79
Infestations otherwise discovered	...	...	...	...	302
Properties inspected	...	...	...	...	864
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	1,284
Treatments carried out by arrangement with occupiers					
Rats	...	...	...	...	204
Mice only	...	...	...	...	185

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

WATERCLOSETS.

New stone or brick waterclosets erected	21	}		33
Indoor waterclosets provided	12			
Closet buildings renovated	...	...	...	87
New pans to waterclosets fixed	...	...	...	84
Foul and choked waterclosets cleansed	...	...	...	151
Flush tanks and water-supply to waterclosets installed	...			73
Flush tanks and water-supply to waterclosets repaired	...			70

HOUSEDRAINS.

New stoneware drains laid	...	...	...	...	38
Choked housedrains cleansed	...	...	...	...	241
New stoneware gully-traps fixed to housedrains	...	...			67
Defective drainage systems remodelled (including the provision of inspection chambers and ventilating shafts)					48

HOUSING DEFECTS.

Roofs, eaves troughing and downpipes provided or renewed					115
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	...	...			74
Firegrates and ovens repaired or renewed	...	...	...		16
General repairs to house structures carried out	...	...			108
Yard and floor pavements renewed or repaired	...	...			69
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Doors and doorframes renewed or repaired	...	...			51
Internal wall and ceiling plasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...			117
External wall renderings renewed or repaired	...	...			14
Various other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	181

NOTICES.

Informal	...	...	...	356
Formal	...	...	...	111

INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

Common Lodging houses	...	...	...	...	...	42
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	763
Shops, stalls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	297
Factories & Workplaces (including bakehouses & Dairies)	...					163
Pigstyes, stables, chicken cots, etc.	...	...	...	...		69
Housedrains and waterclosets	...	...	...	...		376
Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...		593
Infectious Diseases, etc. (Investigation and disinfection)	...					79
Various other inspections (including verminous infestations)						653
						3,035

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**1. INSPECTIONS** for the purpose of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	No. on Register	Number		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	39	78	2	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	46	1	—
(III) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	18	39	2	—
TOTAL	87	163	5	—

2. Defects Found.

PARTICULARS	No of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were installed
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(S.1). Want of Cleanliness	6	6	—	2	—
(S.2). Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
(S.3). Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
(S.4). Inadequate Ventilation	2	2	1	—	—
(S.6). Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—	—
(S.7). Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	12	1	2	—

HOUSING.

For a number of years past, in each successive annual report, comment has been made of the many instances of bad housing conditions existing in the district and reciting the evils resulting therefrom. As an old mining town, Tredegar possesses a preponderance of aged and sub-standard stone-built dwellings, lacking in modern facilities and amenities. It is true that during the

inter-war period, some 165 of the worst of these places were dealt with by the Council under "Slum Clearance" procedure, involving the displacement and rehousing of nearly 700 persons, but there still remain a large number of "black spots" yet to be tackled. It has also to be remembered that even in regard to the Council's own Housing Estates, the earliest batches of houses erected are now nearing, if not passed, the midway mark in the intended duration of their life and the cost of maintenance, outside of desirable improvements will naturally become heavier as time goes on in order to keep them in proper habitable condition.

Countering this, the Council's bold and progressive policy in advancing their post-war housing programme, has up to the end of the year resulted in the very commendable figure of 437 dwellings completed, making a total of 924 houses provided and owned by the Council.

Following upon consultation with the County Planning Officer (Mr. James Kegie) in his preparation of the development plan for the area, the Council have ear-marked sites for the erection of some 2,100 houses during the next twenty years and have also adopted a preliminary schedule for the demolition of about 1,000 sub-standard dwellings in proposed Development and Clearance Areas or as Individual Unfit Houses.

The Council have also had under consideration the desirability or otherwise of taking over blocks of property for conversion and improvement under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, but no final decision taken.

The relevant sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the abatement of Nuisances, were largely used during the year for the remedy of defects to house property. As usual many difficulties were encountered, especially in regard to labour and material, and Police Court proceedings for enforcing the terms of the notices were taken in a number of cases.

Eight Certificates were issued during the year, upon application, to tenants under the Rent and Mortgage (Interest) Restrictions Acts, 1920-1938.

Council's Housing Programme—Progress.

	Temp. Pre-fabs	Perm. Pre-fabs	Tradit- ional	Total
Number of houses completed during 1950	—	—	52	52
Number of houses in course of erection at the end of 1950	—	56	—	56
Number of houses sanctioned by the Welsh Board of Health but not commenced at the end of 1950	—	66	52	118

Number of houses erected by private enterprise during the year, 2.

Total number of occupied houses owned by the Local Authority—924.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk), Regulations, 1949.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

In the report for 1949, the administrative changes brought about by the above regulations were outlined. The main effect of their operation locally has been that most of the sixteen or so small producers have gradually ceased themselves to distribute their product and the raw milk is collected by a local Pasteuriser.

As the bulk of the milk supply of the district is imported, all consisting of designated bottled milk, the amount of raw milk sold for human consumption is very little.

However, periodic samples of locally produced raw milk, prior to pasteurisation, continue to be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service during the year. Out of a total of 45 samples, 21 were satisfactory and 24 were reported as bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

“Designated” Milk Samples.

GRADE	Number of Satisfied Test	samples which Did not satisfy test	Total
PASTEURISED	35	4	39
T.T. PASTEURISED	21	3	24
TOTALS	56	7	63

Licences issued under the above Regulations were :—

Dealer's Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk 10

Dealer's Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk 8

ICE-CREAM. (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

The number of registered premises at the end of the year was :—

Manufacturers (Cold Mix only) 6

Retailers 21

This shows a decrease in the number of (cold mix) manufacturers, and a considerable increase in retailers, who sell pre-packed ice-cream imported into the district.

The results of samples taken during the year show a very definite improvement to those of the previous year, as shown below :—

	1949		1950	
Grade 1.	18	(28.12%)	57	(57.57%)
Grade 2.	17	(26.56%)	23	(23.23%)
Grade 3.	12	(18.75%)	10	(10.1%)
Grade 4.	17	(26.56%)	9	(9.09%)
Total	64		99	

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

Systematic inspection of the food supply of the district was carried out throughout the year and all the attention possible given to this very important and necessary duty at all places where food is prepared, deposited or exposed for sale.

BYE-LAWS.

Bye-Laws were made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open-Air, which were confirmed by the Minister of Food on the 13th day of June, 1950, and came into operation on the 17th day of July, 1950.

Government Scheme of Food Control (Centralised Slaughtering) and Meat Distribution for the year, 1950.

Cattle	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs	Calves	TOTAL
3,030	182	17,245	240	20,697

(as against a total of 20,070 animals for 1949)

92 Pig carcasses were also inspected, slaughtered by local pig-keepers under the provision of the Ministry of Food, Self Suppliers Scheme, Live Stock (Registrations in Slaughtering) Order, as against **220 for the previous year.**

IMPORTED MEAT. Received and distributed during the year 1950.

						Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	571	5	2	22
Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	458	18	0	9
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	187	0	3	24
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	39	6	3	18
Corned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	101	8	2	12
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	—	11	3	24
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	22	2	0	13
						1,380	14	1	10

(as against 945 tons 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 lbs. for 1949.)

Licences. Issued to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, during 1950 were :—

New Licences	...	...	1
Renewal of Licences	...	...	23

Unsound Food.

Particulars of meat and other foods found upon examination to be unfit for human consumption are given below. Where possible and under guarantee, these were salvaged either for industrial purposes or for animal feeding and the remainder destroyed :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	No. of whole carcasses included
Beef (Home Killed)	7	4	1	13	28
Mutton and Lamb „		10	1	15	41
Pork				13	
	7	14	3	13	69

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Offal	16	17	0	5
	24	11	3	18
Imported Meat		2	0	7
Canned Corned Meat		1	1	16
Veal				12
Chopped Pork				11
Sausage			2	11
Butter (Imported)				6
Canned and Bottled Foods		14	2	6
Various other foodstuffs (including fish)		4	3	22
	25	15	2	25

(As against 22 tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 17 lbs. for 1949).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

Brief Review.

Notifications.

A Table of the case-rates per 1,000 Home Population of corrected notifications received during the year 1950 for the district and also for England and Wales with corresponding figures for 1949 for comparison, is set out below. Maybe, there likely were a number of "missed" or non-notified cases of the commoner infectious diseases, even so, allowing for a reasonable margin in this respect, the incidence of infectious diseases was very low. Reference to Table 2 will give details of age groups. There was no occurrence of enteric fever, Paratyphoid fever, Meningococcal infection, diphtheria or smallpox.

	Tredegar Urban District		England and Wales	
	1950	1949	1950	1949
Typhoid Fever	—	—	0.00	(0.01)
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	0.01	(0.01)
Meningococcal Infection	—	(—)	0.03	(0.02)
Scarlet Fever	0.19	(0.05)	1.50	(1.63)
Whooping Cough	0.05	(—)	3.60	(2.39)
Diphtheria	—	(—)	0.02	(0.04)
Erysipelas	0.09	(0.05)	0.17	(0.19)
Small-Pox	—	(—)	0.00	(—)
Measles	6.53	(0.74)	8.39	(8.95)
Pneumonia	0.39	(—)	0.70	(0.80)
Ac. Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) :— Paralytic	0.09	(—)	0.13	(0.13)
Non-Paralytic	—	(—)	0.05	(0.01)
Food Poisoning	—	(—)	0.17	(0.14)

As a matter of interest, the total deaths for 1950, classified into age groups, were :—

	Under 1	1-5	5-10	10-20	20-35	35-45
Males	9	2	1	1	2	5
Females	3	1	1	1	3	6
	12	3	2	2	5	11

	45-65	65-70	70-80	80 & over	Total
Males	46	14	38	25	143
Females	22	18	32	19	106
	68	32	70	44	249

The average age at death for the year :—

Males	61.46 years	(as against 61.21 for 1949).
Females	63.43 years	(„ „ 60.97 „ „).
Male and Female	62.44 years	(„ „ 61.10 „ „).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register for the district at the commencement and at the close of 1950, was as follows :—

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
1st January, 1950	123	76	117	57	373
31st December, 1950	99	67	110	46	322

Statistics showing the number of new cases and mortality during the year, arranged in age groups, are given in Table 3 at the end of the report. For comparison, the figures for 1950 and several previous years are given below.

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
*1950	38	10	6	2
1949	25	10	12	5
1948	33	4	13	2
1947	21	5	17	2
1946	35	7	7	2
1945	25	7	12	—
1944	39	7	13	1
1943	43	11	19	2
1942	22	9	14	3

*Of the eight tuberculosis deaths, three (two pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) were non-notified cases.

The total number of notifications of admission to (Form I) and discharge from (Form II) Institutions during 1950 were :—

	Males		Females	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Admissions	15	2	20	—
Discharges	15	1	8	3

Mass Radiographic Survey of the General Population of the Area.

In conjunction with the Welsh Regional Hospital Board (Mass Radiography Service) arrangements were made by the Council for this Survey to be conducted at the Assembly Room, Bedwellty House, during the week ending 20th May, 1950.

1,447 persons attended for examination (1,009 males and 438 females).

Of this number, 153 (10.57%) were found to be abnormal, classified as under :—

- (a) Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis - Nil
- (b) Needing further Observations - 13 (0.89%)
(9 males, 4 females)
- (c) Other abnormalities of Chest - 48 (3.32%)
(28 males, 20 females)
- (d) Pneumoconiosis - 92 males (6.36%)

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925) relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

It was found necessary for the Council to arrange for the destruction of soiled bedding in certain cases and to compensate accordingly.

In conclusion, I again take the opportunity to express my appreciation of the continued and willing support of the Council and the loyal service rendered the Department by the Officers and all the members of the staff throughout the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

EDWIN T. H. DAVIES,

M.D., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng).

TABLE 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar General's Returns).

1950

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Measles	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	9	19
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	2	6	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	8	18
Coronary disease, angina	15	3	18
Hypertension with heart disease	5	1	6
Other heart disease	31	27	58
Other circulatory disease	6	1	7
Influenza	4	1	5
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Bronchitis	14	6	20
Other diseases of respiratory system	7	—	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	5	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	21	33
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	2	—	2
ALL CAUSES	143	106	249
POPULATION	20,360		

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1950. (After correction and other than Tuberculosis).

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TABLE III.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during
1950 according to age groups.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
5	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	4	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
25	2	8	1	1	—	—	—	1
35	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
45	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	21	17	6	4	3	3	1	1

TABLE IV.
Infantile Mortality — 1950.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital malformation birth injury and infant diseases.	3	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	4
Heart failure	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	7	—	—	—	7	1	2	2	—	12

TABLE V.

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population — 1950. (Estimated Population — 20,360.)

	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	Smallpox	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Ac. Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Influenza
England and Wales	11.60	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.46	0.36	0.10
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	12.3	00.0	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.49	0.42	0.09
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population of 25,000-50,000 at Census 1931)	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.45	0.33	0.10
London Administrative County	11.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.48	0.39	0.07
TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT	12.20	—	—	—	—	—	0.39	0.39	0.24



